SYLLABUS

ACCT 568: Business Law for Accountants
Summer II 2012: July 9 – August 9, 2012
Texas A&M University at Commerce
Online/Web Based Class

Instructor: Christopher B. Meadors, JD, CPA, CFF
Accounting, Economics & Finance Department
Business & Technology College
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Commerce, Texas 75429-3011, USA

E-mail: cbmeadors@empirecentral.com (primary)
Christopher.meadors@tamuc.edu (secondary)

Office Hours: Online (Virtual Office)

Course Description:

Business Law and Regulation is the study of professional and legal responsibilities and legal implications of business transactions, particularly as they relate to accounting and auditing, and the application of that knowledge to common business transactions. This course provides knowledge of general business environment and business concepts needed to understand the underlying business reasons for and accounting implications of transactions. Our primary objective in this class is to transfer the body of knowledge needed to answer questions likely to appear on the CPA, CMA, CIA, or other professional examinations and to provide a foundation of knowledge of business law for accountants.

Textbooks and Materials:

Required Textbook:

Mann/Roberts: Business Law and Regulation of Business. (Tenth Edition)

Course Embedded Assessment Objectives:

Your achievement level for each objective will be measured by your success in completing assignments regarding the following key objectives:

- Recognize ethical and legal duties related to accounting, assurance, or other professional services, or to the operation of a business;
- Apply general rules of contracts to define the duties of parties to contracts;
- Apply statutory rules regulating sales, negotiable instruments, secured transactions, and title to personal property;
- Apply general rules related to formation, operation, and dissolution of business entities;
Course Structure and Lectures:

This class is entirely in an online format and will be conducted through the eCollege platform (online.tamuc.org). As this is a Summer session, we will be moving through some dense material at an accelerated pace. For your own sake – it is essential that you keep up as much of the material is cumulative.

The course will be a combination of reading assignments, assigned problems, Live Lectures, and supplemental materials, and exams.

Reading. All reading chapters are from the Mann/Roberts text and all assigned chapters are required.

Problems. A list of assigned problems for the week will be posted in eCollege. These problems do not need to be turned in, but may be discussed during each class. These problems are also good practice for the problems and the exams.

Live Lectures. I will conduct live lectures 3 days a week, typically on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 6:30 pm. You are NOT required to attend the Live Lectures at that time. Each lecture will be recorded and will be available for viewing at your convenience.

Supplemental Materials. Business Law contains many concepts and areas which are particularly complex or technical. In my experience, some students may have difficulty understanding these areas from the reading or the Live Lecture format. As such, I may post recorded lectures, videos, or links on particular subjects to help students enhance their understanding.

Exams. There will be 3 exams during the semester. You will be expected to apply the concepts from class and in the reading (even if not covered in Live Lectures). The exams will be a combination of True/False, Matching, Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and Essays. The exact coverage of each test will be discussed in class prior to the test. The 3rd and Final exam is NOT cumulative.

Exams will be taken in eCollege. Exams 1 and 2 will be made available for 3 days ending on the due date. Exam 3 will be available for two days total. Once you begin your exam, you will have 2 hour window to complete it – NO EXCEPTIONS. Exams must be completed by 11:59 pm on the date indicated. Make sure you have a 2 hour window available to take the exams as it must be taken in one sitting.
Evaluation:

In general, the following grading schedules will apply for this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Exam 1</th>
<th>Exam 2</th>
<th>Exam 3</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 90%</td>
<td>A (superior)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 - 80%</td>
<td>B (above average)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 - 70%</td>
<td>C (average)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 - 60%</td>
<td>D (below average)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>≤ 59%</td>
<td>F (failing)</td>
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Ethics:

Integrity is the hallmark of the accounting profession and will be stressed throughout the course. Any type of student breach of ethics, including but not limited to: illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, plagiarism, or collusion, will result in failure of assignment or exam (F) and/or further academic sanction (i.e. failure of course (F), dismissal from class and/or referral to Dean of the College of Business and Technology).

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
**Technical Problems/Questions:**

**eCollege:** This is a web-based course utilizing eCollege. You may e-mail me or any student in the class by utilizing the e-mail feature in eCollege. Documents will be made available in eCollege. If you have not already done so, please complete the student tutorial on using eCollege.

Newer versions of Explorer block pop-ups. You should disable the pop-up blocker to the online learning sites to avoid this problem. To temporarily turn it off or disable it for a specific web site, go to tools and then pop-up blocker and select the off or pop-up blocker settings. The off selection temporarily turns it off until the browser is closed and the settings selection lets you permanently allow a specific web site to use pop-ups.

Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, Office Services such as Kinko's, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. If you have questions related to eCollege, A&M-Commerce’s online course management system, click on "TECHNICAL SUPPORT" on the left side of your course screen. An email box will appear. Fill out this technical support form, click submit, and your questions will be forwarded to the technical support staff. A resolution will be sent to you from the technical support staff via email. If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The HelpDesk can be reached by sending an email to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or by calling 866-656-5511. Additionally, you can click on the "Help" button located at the top of each page for more information.

**Dropping or Withdrawals:**

University policy will be followed in regards to withdrawals during the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to conform with the university rules relating to dropping or withdrawing from the course.

*NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change as needed to meet the objectives or administration of the course at the discretion of the Professor. It is not anticipated that there will be any substantive changes.*
## Class Schedule & Assignments
### Summer II 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Part*</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>Introduction I-II</td>
<td>LL: Tues, Wed, Thursday (6:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>III &amp; IV</td>
<td>LL: Tues, Wed, Thursday (6:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 20-22</td>
<td>EXAM 1 (Parts I - IV)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>V &amp; VI</td>
<td>LL: Tues, Wed, Thursday (6:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>VII &amp; VIII</td>
<td>LL: Tues, Wed, Thursday (6:30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 3-5</td>
<td>EXAM 2 (Parts V - VII)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>IX (Ch. 40 only)</td>
<td>LL: Mon, Tues (6:30 pm)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>August 8-9**</td>
<td>EXAM 3 (Parts VI - VII)</td>
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* Note: 1 part of the textbook can be composed of multiple chapters.

** Note: The final exam is open for only two days (Wed – Thurs) rather than the 3 days allowed for other exams.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria (Course Objectives)</th>
<th>1 (Unsatisfactory)</th>
<th>2 (Emerging)</th>
<th>3 (Proficient)</th>
<th>4 (Exemplary)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognize ethical and legal duties related to accounting, assurance, or other professional services, or to the operation of a business;</td>
<td>Student is unable to recognize these ethical and legal duties.</td>
<td>Student can recognize some of the ethical and legal duties.</td>
<td>Student can recognize many of the ethical and legal duties.</td>
<td>Student can recognize most of the ethical and legal duties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply general rules of contracts to define the duties of parties to contracts;</td>
<td>Student is unable to apply the rules of contracts.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply some rules of contracts.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply most rules of contracts.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply all rules of contracts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply statutory rules regulating sales, negotiable instruments, secured transactions, and title to personal property</td>
<td>Student is unable to apply these statutory rules.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply some of the statutory rules.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply most of the statutory rules.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply all of the statutory rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply general rules related to formation, operation, and dissolution of business entities</td>
<td>Student is unable to apply these general rules.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply some of the general rules.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply most of the general rules.</td>
<td>Student is able to apply all of the general rules.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### RUBRIC FOR ASSIGNMENTS

#### RESEARCH PAPERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Grading Guide</th>
<th>Points Assigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | 100            | **0-29**=Difficult to read, unorganized, weak, lacks references, or not well developed. **30-59**= Paper contains material grammatical errors or gross mistakes and not well developed. **50-69**=Paper organized, not fully developed, insufficient evidence or other flaws to undermine paper. **70-79**=Paper organized, followed most APA or MLA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision. **80-89** = Paper organized, significantly followed APA or MLA guidelines, few grammatical errors, mostly easy to read, and identified relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision. **90-100**=Paper was well written, organized, informative, easy to read, and followed APA or MLA format, including proper references. Identified relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision. | }
# EXAMS (4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Grading Guide</th>
<th>Points Assigned</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Exam       | 0-100           | 0-59 = Mastery of material not demonstrated. Answered Questions incomplete or inaccurately. 
60-69 = Barely demonstrated basic understanding of some or of the material. 
70-79 = Provided acceptable level of informative or organized response. However, answers not fully developed. Demonstrated acceptable level of technical and conceptual understanding and/or applied relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision. 
80-89 = Demonstrated above average level of informative and organized response. Clearly articulated above average understanding technical and conceptual understanding and/or applied relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision. 
90-100 = Demonstrated superior level of informative and organized response. Clearly articulated superior understanding technical and conceptual understanding and/or applied relevant metrics and applied them in order to support a well-reasoned analysis and/or decision. |               |                |

*NOTE: Rubrics are guides and subject to change based on Instructor needs.*